

Representative Town Meeting  
Town of Darien, CT  
**RULES COMMITTEE**  
**Minutes of Regular Meeting, April 10, 2006**  
8:15 PM, Town Hall, Room 213

Members Attending: K. Armour, J. Davis, D. Maroney, S. Morton, M. Pontius, B. Rayhill, G. Swenson, M. Thorne, V. Wenger.

Members Absent: B. Puzyk, H. Pegler, B. Rayhill, V. Riccardo, J. Warren

Guests: Mrs. D. Parnon, Executive Director of Darien Revitalization, Inc., and Robert Young, chair of the PZ&H committee

The Chair called the meeting to order at 8:20 PM. The primary purpose of the meeting was to set the agenda for the April 24 Special meeting of the RTM and the May 8 Regular meeting of the RTM (Budget).

The minutes of the February 27 meeting were approved.

On a motion by Mr. Maroney that was seconded by Mr. Morton, the Committee unanimously agreed to add two items at the end of the prepared agenda:

- Committee assignment for the newly appointed Mr. Schoonmaker
- Consideration of guidelines for RTM non-partisanship

The Chair recognized Mrs. Parnon, who asked to present the mission and initiatives of the DRI / Mainstreet Project at an RTM meeting. After discussion, the committee agreed with Mrs. Parnon's idea that her report to the RTM would be welcomed at an RTM meeting next Fall.

The Chair announced that she has scheduled an informational presentation on the threat of Avian Influenza by Dr. Parry for the April 24 Special Meeting

The agenda items for inclusion in the RTM meetings were considered, with a report on the readiness of each item by the Chair:

1. The Town Plan of Conservation and Development is ready for RTM approval. The Planning and Zoning Commission and the Board of Selectmen have approved it. Since the plan is quite voluminous, it will not be mailed to each RTM member. Instead, the Moderator will include in the Warning a notice that the Plan is accessible online at the Town website and copies are available to be read at the Darien Library.
2. Three gifts have been made to the Town that need to be accepted by the RTM.
  - a. Landscaping of the perimeter of Town Hall circle (more than \$10,000, Garden Club of Darien)
  - b. Landscaping and monuments for Town Hall Circle (more than \$10,000, various entities)
  - c. Comfort station for Cherry Lawn Park (approx \$20,000, Fox Hill Builders)

On a motion by Mr. Pontius, seconded by Mr. Maroney, primary reporting to the RTM was assigned for the first two gifts to the Public Works committee, while primary reporting for the third gift was assigned to the Parks and Recreation committee. Secondary reporting for the third gift was assigned to the Planning, Zoning, and Housing committee. Secondary reporting for all three gifts was also assigned to the Finance and Budget Committee. The motion carried unanimously.

3. The Purchasing ordinance to complement the recent Charter change is ready for RTM consideration and approval.
4. Code changes regarding boats and harbors are expected to be ready for the May 8<sup>th</sup> RTM Regular Meeting.
5. Three leases are pending Selectmen approval and will subsequently be ready for RTM consideration and approval:
  - a. Continental Motors (BMW of Darien)
  - b. Cell tower expansion (transfer station/Ledge Road)
  - c. Darien Arts Council (Town Hall)

On a motion by Mr. Wenger, seconded by Mr. Swenson, primary reporting on the Continental Motors lease was assigned to the Public Works committee, with secondary reporting by the Planning, Zoning, and Housing and the Finance and Budget committees. Primary reporting on the Cell tower lease was assigned to the Public Works committee, with secondary reporting by the Finance and Budget committee. Primary reporting on the Darien Arts Council lease was assigned to the Finance and Budget committee. The motion carried unanimously.

6. The general modifications to the Darien Code need more review by the TGS&A Committee.
7. Mr. Morton of the RTM Committee to execute the charge to investigate best practices in Town Hall finance function reported that the committee now has received written procedures for the departments from the Board of Finance. The committee will have a report on the structure of the committee after the scope of effort has been evaluated by reviewing the procedures.
8. Other items:

- a. Create agenda for April 24 Special Meeting and May 4 Regular (Budget) Meetings:

On a motion by Mr. Morton, seconded by Mrs. Pontius, the agenda for the April 24 Special RTM Meeting will be items 1, 2, 3, a report from Town Attorney Fox on the possibility of cost recovery for the expense of asbestos removal from the former Darien High School [to be included in announcements], and an informational Presentation on the public health threat of Avian Flu by Dr. Perry. The motion carried unanimously.

On a motion by Mr. Morton, seconded by Mr. Maroney, the agenda for the May 8 Regular RTM Meeting will be items 4, 5, and the approval of the Budget of the Town of Darien. The motion carried unanimously.

- b. Assign an RTM Committee

On a motion by Mrs. Pontius, seconded by Mr. Rayhill, new member Mr. S. Schoonmaker was assigned to the TGS&A committee. The motion carried unanimously.

- c. Approve non-partisan guidelines

On a motion by Mr. Thorne, seconded by Mr. Morton, the draft guidelines for RTM non-partisanship were approved unanimously and will be forwarded to Rules Committee Clerk Mrs. Riccardo for inclusion in the orientation materials for RTM members.

On a motion by Mr. Thorne, the meeting was adjourned at 9:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

M. Thorne, Substitute Clerk